

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, originally sung by church quartets and traveling family groups, Southern Gospel music emerged during the early years of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, Southern Gospel music encompasses styles ranging from traditional four-part male quartet harmonies with simple piano accompaniment to modern country renditions; and

WHEREAS, Southern Gospel music continues to grow in popularity, appealing to diverse listening audiences as well as to all age groups; and

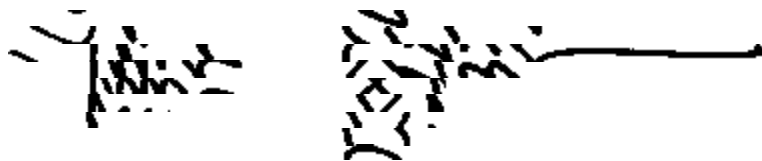
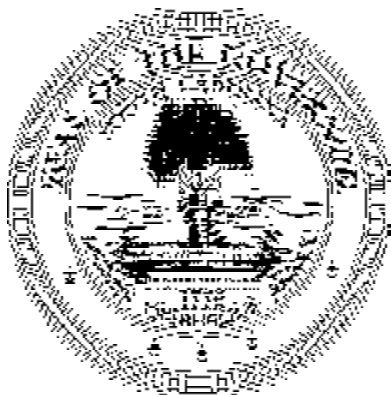
WHEREAS, hundreds of full-time and part-time groups are on the road each weekend throughout the nation singing Southern Gospel music in churches and concert halls, over a thousand American radio stations play Southern Gospel music regularly, and more Americans are attending concerts and purchasing Southern Gospel music recordings than ever before; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of Southern Gospel music encourages greater understanding and awareness of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the Palmetto State, while helping to ensure that generations to come may enjoy and appreciate this unique art form.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2003 as

SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate this musical genre, its history, the artists, and the positive message it carries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA